

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

For patent application of:  
Ronald P. Sansone, et al.

) Attorney Docket No.: F-442  
    ) Customer No.: 00919

Serial No.: 09/683,381

) PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE  
    ) Examiner: Richard Sukyoon Woo  
    ) Group Art Unit: 3629  
    ) Confirmation No.: 7716  
    ) Date: August 19, 2003

Filed: December 19, 2001

For: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR NOTIFYING MAIL USERS OF MAIL  
PIECE CONTAMINATION**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" against this application unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b) exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

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This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provisions, as identified below with marked boxes, available under 37 CFR § 1.97:

1.  37 CFR §1.97(b) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to one of the following: (i) within 3 months of the filing date of this application (other than a CPA); (ii) within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; (iii) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (iv) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

OR

2.  37 CFR §1.97(c) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and it is accompanied by the statement or fee as identified below:

2.1  Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

2.2  Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

OR

2.3  Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

\*\* **Provisional Fee Authorization.** If Box 2.1 or Box 2.2 is marked above and a final action under § 1.113 has in fact been mailed before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) as if Box 2.3 had been marked.

OR

3.  37 CFR §1.97(d) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and it is accompanied by the statement and fee as identified below:

3.1.1  Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

3.1.2  Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

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Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

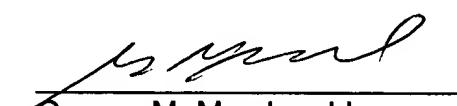
A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 16-1885.

A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed for use in charging the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)  
One copy of each of the references

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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| FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)                                 |    |                 |      | Atty. Docket Number<br>F-442           | Serial No.<br>09/683,381 |          |                            |
|--|----|-----------------|------|--|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br/>BY APPLICANT</b> |    |                 |      | Applicant<br>Ronald P. Sansone, et al. |                          |          |                            |
|  |    |                 |      | Filing Date<br>December 19, 2001       | Group<br>3629            |          |                            |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>                             |    |                 |      |  |                          |          |                            |
| EXAMINER INITIAL   |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME                                   | CLASS                    | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|  | AA |                 |      |  |                          |          |                            |
|  | AB |                 |      |  |                          |          |                            |
|  | AC |                 |      |  |                          |          |                            |
|  | AD |                 |      |  |                          |          |                            |
|  | AE |                 |      |  |                          |          |                            |

| <b>FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS</b> |    |                 |         |                          |       |          |             |
|---|----|-----------------|---------|--------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|
|   |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE    | COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |
|   | AF | DE 10153420 A1  | 06-2002 | Germany                  |       |          |             |
|   | AG | EP 1063602 A1   | 12-2000 | EPO                      |       |          |             |

|   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b> |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AH | U.S. Patent Application 09/683,380 entitled Method and System for Detecting Biological and Chemical Hazards in Networked Incoming Mailboxes  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AJ | U.S. Patent Application 09/683,379 entitled Method and System for Detecting Biological and Chemical Hazards in Mail  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AK | Unknown Author, "Scanna Mail", spring 2001, 5 pages ✓  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|   | AM | "The bugs of war", Nature, vol. 411, 5/17/01, 4 pages ✓  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AM | Pinnick, R.G., et al., "Real-time Measurement of Fluorescence Spectra from Single Airborne Biological Particles", 1999, 32 pages ✓   |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AN | SKC BioSampler brochure, 4 pages ✓   |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AO | Hohnson-Winegar, A., et al., "The DoD Biological Detection Program, NDIA Roundtable Discussions", 10/24/2000, 27 pages ✓   |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AP | "Anthrax Detectors are coming", Office of Naval Research, 10/29/2001, 1 page ✓   |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AQ | Ocean Optics Brochure, Endospore Detection, 12/5/01, <a href="http://www.oceanoptics.com">www.oceanoptics.com</a> , 4 pages ✓  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AR | Shanker, M.S., "Instant anthrax detector developed in Hyderabad", 11/5/01, 1 page ✓  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AS | Introduction to Fluorescence Techniques with bibliography, 12/4/01, <a href="http://www.probes.com/handbook">www.probes.com/handbook</a> , 9 pages ✓   |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AT | Cao, et al., "DNA Nanoparticle Assembly and Diagnostics, 12/4/01, 2 pages ✓  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | AU | Ocean Optics Portable Endoscope Detection System Offers Real-time Anthrax Screening, 11/15/2001, 1 page ✓  |  |  |  |  |  |

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|  | AV | Scholl, et al., "Immunoaffinity-based phosphorescent sensor platform for the detection of bacterial spores", abstract 4/2000, 1 page ✓  |
|  | AW | "What is a Fluorometer?", 7/17/2001, 1 page, ✓<br><a href="http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oilaids/SMART/SMARTtour/fluor.html">http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oilaids/SMART/SMARTtour/fluor.html</a> |
|  | AX | Hargis, et al., "Ultraviolet fluorescence identification of protein, DNA and bacteria", abstract 2/1995, 1 page ✓   |
|  | AY | McMillan, "Point-of-care Real Time Molecular Detection of Infectious Agents" 5/20/01, 2 pages ✓   |
|  | AZ | "Cellomics, Inc. Announces the Development of Biowarfare Detection Methods", 11/21/2001, <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> , 1 page  |
|  | BA | "Lambda Technologies' Variable Microwave Systems Adapted to 'Zap' Bioterrorism Threat", 11/5/2001, <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> , 2 pages ✓                                       |
|  | BB | "Egea Awarded Second DARPA Contract to Fight Bioterrorism", 10/30/2001, 1 page ✓  |
|  | BC | Meserve, J., "Feds, industry rush to make cheap biohazard detectors", 11/1/2001, 1 page   |
|  | BD | "Mathematical model provides new tool to asses mail-bourne spread of anthrax" 5/13/2002, 2 pages ✓  |
|  | BE | "UMAss chemist working on sensors that could eventually identify bioterror agents", 12/13/2001, 2 pages ✓   |
|  | BF | "Stickers warn of UV Radiation", 5/23/2000, 1 page ✓  |
|  | BG | "Simple and inexpensive, an artificial nose senses smell by seeing colors", 8/16/2000, 1 page ✓   |
|  | BH | "Electronic Sniffer, Listen Hard and listen good if you want to name that smell", 12/19/2000, 1 page, <a href="http://www.newscientist.com">www.newscientist.com</a> ✓  |
|  | BJ | E-nose noses out mines", Office of Naval Research, 4/17/2001, 1 page ✓  |
|  | BK | "On a spot smaller than a dime, UB chemists print sensors that may detect hundreds of chemicals", 1/25/2002, 2 pages ✓  |
|  | BL | "The Classica Group Files Patent Application for its Method of Sterilization Against Anthra Bacteria Disseminated on or in Paper", 10/26/01, <a href="http://www.businesswire.com">businesswire</a> , 1 page ✓  |
|  | BM | Gordon, M., "Companies accused of Anthrax Fraud", 11/15/01, 1 page ✓  |
|  | BN | "Sensors Detect Biological Weapons", <a href="http://www.photonics.com/content/Jan99/techWeapons.html">www.photonics.com/content/Jan99/techWeapons.html</a> , 1/1999, 4 pages ✓                                 |
|  | BO | Aston, C., "Biological Warfare Canaries", IEEE Spectrum, 10/2001, 6 pages ✓   |
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|  | BQ | "Biosensors and Biochips for Environmental and Biomedical Applications" <a href="http://www.onl.gov/virtual/biosensors">www.onl.gov/virtual/biosensors</a> , 12/4/2001, 2 pages ✓                               |

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| <b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>   |    |   |                          |
|   | BR | "ID Mail Systems to Develop Mail Profiling System for in-bound Mail Centers Against Potential Threatening Mail", 10/18/2001, 2 pages  |                          |
|   | BS | "Mailrooms on Front Lines in Bioterrorism Fight", 10/15/2001, The Wall Street Journal, 1 page   |                          |
|   | BT | Vorenberg, S., "Sandia designs sensors to detect toxic chemicals in water", 10/12/2001, <a href="http://www.abqtrib.com">www.abqtrib.com</a> , 2 pages  |                          |
|   | BU | "Sandia's soil and groundwater chemical 'sniffer' may help protect the nation's water supply", 10/3/2001, <a href="http://www.sandia.gov/media/NewsRel.NR2001/whtsniff.htm">www.sandia.gov/media/NewsRel.NR2001/whtsniff.htm</a> (4 pages)    |                          |
|   | BV | "Two new Sandia 'sniffers' expand law enforcement abilities to detect explosives and narcotics", 11/30/1999, <a href="http://www.sandia.gov/media/NewsRel.NR1999/sniffers.htm">www.sandia.gov/media/NewsRel.NR1999/sniffers.htm</a> (4 pages) |                          |
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